

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 8:00 a.m.

Salt Lake Community College South City Campus, Multipurpose Room  
1575 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah

This is an additional interim meeting approved by the Legislative Management Committee to be held with the Utah State Board of Education.

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ann Millner, Senate Chair  
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair  
Sen. Jim Dabakis  
Rep. LaVar Christensen  
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler  
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings  
Rep. Daniel McCay  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Rep. V. Lowry Snow

Rep. Steve Eliason  
Rep. Justin L. Fawson  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson  
Rep. David E. Lifferth  
Rep. Michael E. Noel

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Tiffany A. Stanley, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allyson R. Goldstein, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Victoria Ashby, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Rebekah Bradway, Associate General  
Counsel  
Mr. Michael E. Curtis, Associate General  
Counsel  
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Assistant

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Lincoln Fillmore  
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Welcome Remarks and Introductions**

Chair Millner called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. Rep. Eliason, Rep. Fawson, and Rep. Lifferth were excused from the meeting. Chair Millner invited committee members and the Utah State Board of Education (board) members to introduce themselves.

**2. Past and Present of Utah Assessment and Accountability Policy**

Ms. Stanley briefed the committee and the board on the legislative history of student assessment and accountability policy in the state from the early 1990s through the present day. She addressed handouts "Statewide Assessments by Grade," "State Legislative History of Assessments," and "State Legislative History of Accountability," and a presentation, "A Legislative History of Assessment and Accountability in Utah."

Dr. Richard K. Nye, Interim Deputy Superintendent and Associate Superintendent, Data, Assessment, and Accountability, Utah State Board of Education; and Dr. Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Assessment Director, Utah State Board of Education, continued the briefing by reviewing the history of student assessment and accountability policy in the state from a regulatory and implementation perspective. They addressed a handout, "1990-2016 Assessments in Utah," and a presentation, "Assessment & Accountability in Utah 1990-2016."

### **3. Purpose of Statewide Assessment and Accountability**

Dr. Nye, Dr. Shaeffer, and Ms. Sherri Heiter, Assessment Director, Weber School District, addressed the purpose of assessment at the state level. Ms. Heiter said that the Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) provides a good measurement of student learning, but discussed issues with the current statewide assessment system, including the length of time necessary to complete the assessment, inability to tie performance on the assessment to a student's grade, and the ability for parents to excuse their students from taking the assessments.

Chair Millner relinquished the chair to Rep. Last.

Mr. Logan Toone, Director, Research and Assessment, Davis School District, reviewed the purpose of school accountability at the state level. He explained that school accountability is composed of two elements: 1) reporting; and 2) sanctions in the form of support and resources. He said that the angst surrounding school accountability is the result of the reporting element, because there are multiple accountability reports that contain consistent information about student performance.

Dr. Nye displayed the board's Data Gateway website (<https://datagateway.schools.utah.gov/>) and explained that the website provides student performance data at the state and school levels and allows for comparisons of student performance across schools with similar characteristics.

### **4. Policy Options for Assessment and Accountability**

Ms. Goldstein reviewed a presentation, "Assessment and Accountability: Considering Options," and reviewed policy questions for committee and board members to consider.

Chair Last returned the chair to Sen. Millner.

Dr. Nye provided a timeline on the activities of the board's Accountability Task Force and reported that the task force plans to make recommendations to the full board during the board's August 12 meeting.

Board members addressed an action taken by the board at the board's May meeting to recommend a statutory change to discontinue the SAGE summative assessment in grades 9-11 and replace it with the ACT in grade 11.

### **5. Teacher Shortage Introduction**

Dr. Nye; Dr. Andrea Rorrer, Director, Utah Education Policy Center; Mr. Travis Rawlings, Licensing Coordinator, Teaching and Learning Licensing, Utah State Board of Education; and Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Research Associate, Utah Education Policy Center, discussed preliminary research on the teacher shortage in Utah and distributed a handout, "At First Glance: Teachers in Utah."

They responded to questions from committee and board members regarding what additional data may be needed as policymakers consider ways to address the teacher shortage, including information on the factors that contribute to low retention rates and the teacher shortage in certain fields such as computer science.

### **7. Adjourn**

Chair Millner adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.